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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PA
SUBJECT: PAPITO OVIEDO ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

¶11. (SBU) Congress elected Colorado Senator Francisco "Papito" Oviedo Britez vice president November 21 by a narrow majority. Election results indicated that 22 of 45 senators and 43 of 80 deputies from both the Colorado Party and the opposition voted for Oviedo. Although he ran unopposed, the political opposition resisted electing Oviedo because he is a Colorado. The position was vacant following Luis Castiglioni's resignation October 4; Oviedo won yesterday following the November 15 announcement that opposition party National Union of Ethical Citizens (UNACE) -- Lino Oviedo's party -- had agreed to support his candidacy.

¶12. (U) Oviedo -- who is unrelated to ex-General Lino Oviedo -- will serve as vice president until the end of the Duarte administration in August 2008. Oviedo served as former President Luis Macchi's finance minister from 1999 until 2003 and has since served as senator. The press reported November 22 that Defense Minister Roberto Gonzalez would fill Oviedo's Senate seat and that General Jose Key Kanazawa, head of the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), will become defense minister.

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